

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1433

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR JM OAS

SUBJ: JAMAICAN CANDIDATE FOR INTER- AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: USG REQUESTED TO SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF KENNETH RATTRAY FOR ELECTION TO INTER- AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE AT APRIL OASGA. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS US SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A NOTE FROM MINEXTAFF, INFORMING US THAT THE GOJ HAS DECIDED TO NOMINATE THE JAMAICAN SOLICITOR GENERAL, DR. KENNETH O. RATTRAY, AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE, TO REPLACE TRINADAD'S CUTHBERT JOSEPH WHO IS SCHEDULED TO RETIRE ON JUNE 30, 1973. THE ELECTION IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD DURING THE APRIL OASGA SESSION IN WASHINGTON. THE MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED US SUPPORT FOR DR. RATTRAY'S NOMINATION.

2. DR. RATTRAY WAS BORN ON SEPT 27, 1932 IN JAMAICA. HE STUDIED AT LONDON UNIVERSITY, RECEIVING A BACHELOR OF LAWS (WITH HONORS) IN 1956, A MASTER OF LAWS IN 1960 AND D. PHIL. IN 1966. HE PASSED THE BAR IN 1959 AND BECAME A BARRISTER AT LAW, LINCOLN'S INN, IN 1960. HE WAS APPOINTED A QUEEN'S COUNSEL IN 1970. DR. RATTRAY WAS APPOINTED AN ASSISTANT CROWN COUNSEL IN 1961, CROWN COUNSEL IN 1962, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL IN 1969, AND SOLICITOR GENERAL IN 1971. HE HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNMENT IN NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING ICAO (HE IS VICE- CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE), WORLD BANK, LAW OF TREATIES, CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT. DR. RATTRAY IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY. HE IS VERY HIGHLY RESPECTED IN THE JAMAICAN LEGAL PROFESSION. HE IS ARTICULATE, INTELLIGENT AND SCRUPULOUS. HIS ELECTION AS VICE- CHAIRMAN OF THE ICAO LEGAL COMMITTEE DEMONSTRATES THE ESTEEM IN WHICH HE IS HELD BY HIS COLLEAGUES. THE EMBASSY, THEREFORE, BELIEVES THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUPPORTING HIS CANDIDACY AT THE APRIL OASGA MEETING.

DE ROULET

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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